

lay between the house of Millo and other distinguished buildings of the city, and that they were united by king David, as described in the foregoing text.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

It is proposed to have St. Martin's Church, Salisbury, wholly repaired, at an estimated cost of 1,000*l.*, of which nearly 600*l.* have been secured.—It is also proposed to restore the Poultry Cross at Salisbury.—The first stone of Cookley New Church, near Kidderminster, was recently laid by Mrs. William Hancocks, who means to present the chancel window. Mr. E. Smith, of Oldswinford, near Stourbridge, builder, is the contractor for the building, a design for which he also furnished. There is to be accommodation for 400, 147 of which will be free sittings.—The committee of the Welsh Educational Institution are about to erect a new college at Llandovery, from a design by Messrs. Fuller and Giggell, of Bristol. Tenders for the works will be called for shortly.—On the Birkenhead Dock-works, 160 men were lately set to work, and it was intended shortly to increase the corps to 500 or 600.—A project has been started for the erection of a temperance hall in Leicester. According to the *Journal*, it is to have two tiers of galleries, with seat-room for 1,665 persons, and a large reading-room, library, club-room, committee-rooms, kitchen, &c. The design, it is added, is in the hands of Mr. Flint, who estimates the cost at 300 guineas.

—On Tuesday week the foundation-stone of a church was laid at Shelf, between Halifax and Bradford. Messrs. Mallinson and Healey are the architects. Mr. John Hardy has given 500*l.* towards the building, and 2,500*l.* towards the endowment. The church will consist of a nave with aisles and a chancel. At the west end of the nave will be a bell-gable. The design is decorated, and similar to that now erecting at Bank Foot, also by the munificent aid of Mr. Hardy. The accommodation will be about 490, nearly all free. Cost of erection, including repair fund, about 1,600*l.*—The Lords of Treasury have consented to the sale of a piece of corporation land at Doncaster to the Cemetery Company there for the new cemetery. The area is 7 a. 2 r. 13 p., and costs 500*l.*, to be applied in payment of corporation debts.—The town council of Newcastle have resolved on the erection of a new street from Neville-street and Westgate-street to the Bigg-market, on condition that 10,500*l.* be sufficient to realize the project.

—Two rows of workmen's houses, ten in a row, with a foreman's mansion as a terminus between them, all under the somewhat ambitious title of 'New Gateshead,' have been erected behind the ironworks of Messrs. Hawks, Crawshaw, and Sons, of Gateshead, as residences for some of those in their employment. The lot, however, merits notice, according to the *Gateshead Observer*, who, speaking of the unity of the design, as a cross-breed between the Elizabethan and the Swiss, declares that the whole has quite a collegiate aspect.—May such classical precincts never be defiled by 'puddle,' 'pig,' or 'donkey,'—irony or not irony, all the same. Moreover, may they be illuminated with a never-ceasing shower of "sparks from the anvil," ever and anon elicited by some choice collegiate, with 'head and harigals' as clear as may their precincts ever then be.—The plan, when completed, will comprise half-a-dozen such erections, each apart from the rest, but all facing inwards on a verdant square. The architects are Messrs. J. and B. Green, of Newcastle, and the contractor (at least of the section already erected) is Mr. C. J. Pearson, of Gateshead. The whole design, so far as regards the improvement of the physical condition of their workmen, is, says our authority, quite characteristic of the firm at whose desire and expense it is being carried out; and we cordially re-echo the aspiration.—Would it were characteristic of every other!—A correspondent, says the same paper, calls our attention to the accidents—frequently serious, sometimes fatal—which occur at the Sunderland docks, now in progress of construction, and suggests that some better provision is needed for such emergencies. The infirmary, says he, is nearly a mile distant from the dock, and an hour

must elapse before surgical aid is rendered—perhaps 'too late.' A levy is made on the workmen by the contractors, to which, I believe, they contribute themselves; and all that is required is the provision of a properly furnished room at the docks, in which, if need be, a surgeon may render immediate assistance. Some better mode of conveyance to the infirmary might also be adopted. We are sure that the contractors will give a ready ear to such suggestions.—The town council of Edinburgh have agreed to apply to Government for leave to throw back the screen in front of the Register House, for 10 or more feet, so as to widen the carriage-way at the head of Leith-street, long a subject of complaint by the citizens.—Four sites, extending in all to about 150 acres, have been selected at different points adjacent to Glasgow, where it is proposed to form pleasure-grounds for the people, with bowling-greens, curling and skating ponds, archery grounds, promenades, garden-lots, &c., and also with buildings for in-door amusement and instruction.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

IMPORTANT QUESTION.

A GENERAL court was held on Thursday, the 1st instant, at the Sewers'-office, Greek-street; the Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle in the chair.

A decree was received from the Lord Mayor of London, setting forth that, in compliance with the Act 11 & 12 Vict., four commissioners to represent the interests of the city of London at this court had been appointed—viz., Alderman Lawrence, Mr. Deputy Harrison, Mr. Deputy Peacock, and Mr. Norris.

The Closed-door Business of the Commission.—The Hon. F. Byng moved that the minutes of the general committee of the 22nd Feb. be read. These set forth that a motion had been made in that committee by Mr. Leslie, seconded by Mr. Byng, that it be recommended to the Court of Sewers not to adopt the report of the Bye-laws Committee, dated Feb. 9, on the ground of the illegality of the recommendations contained therein, as no authority to delegate the powers of the commission to committees is to be found in the commission itself, or in the general statutes on sewers; but that every facility was given in the 11 & 12 Vict. to the commission, as a court of record, to carry out most advantageously for the public (by making the public fully acquainted with all its proceedings) the objects for which the commission issued. That the proceedings of this court could be reviewed by the Court of Queen's Bench; that the appointment of committees was in violation of the statute, and that the time of the officers, which ought to be occupied in the various works in progress, was taken up in almost daily attendance upon some one or other of the special or sub-committees. This motion in the committee was negatived by a large majority.

The Earl of Carlisle wished to offer a few words on a point that occurred to his mind, without expressing any opinion on the main question involved in the resolutions that had been read, as to the manner of carrying on the business of this court. Whatever might be the expediency of that course, it was a question so material to the constitution and working of that court, he thought, if any doubt were entertained, that such doubt should be immediately cleared up; and therefore he suggested that a special case should be drawn up and submitted to the highest law officers of the crown.

Mr. Byng said the adoption of that course would not prevent him protesting against the illegality of what had been done already. He had before submitted a motion on the illegality of their proceedings, but how was that resolution met? Why, by the members of the Works' Committee passing certain resolutions; and therefore the attendance of himself and other commissioners was useless. Every proceeding of that commission should be made public, for, unless they carried the public with them, the public would be unrepresented, and their entire acts would be looked upon with suspicion; and, after all, what had these committees done? The time had been wasted, for they had done little or nothing, but employed the officers of the court to the neglect of their ordinary duties. He had no wish unnecessarily to detain the court, his former motion having been negatived, but he contended that all courts and committees should be open. Now, as to the constitution of the Works' Committee, it was most essential that it should comprise gentlemen of the greatest practical experience, several of whom were not to be found on this committee. There was, he believed, no authority whatever for standing committees. There might be special inquiries for special works—special committees and adjoined committees,—but the court, and the court alone, were qualified to judge of their necessity. There was no difficulty

in the court carrying out great works, as they had been carried out by the court before. It was his opinion that all standing committees were illegal, especially constituted as they were of persons having no special knowledge of the work they had to superintend; and, as an instance, he might mention that he himself, without his knowledge or consent, had been placed on the finance committee, although he knew nothing of finance. As a member of the late Westminster commission, he had worked, and with Mr. Leslie, succeeded, in bringing it into that contempt it eventually received; but as a commissioner of the present, he was by no means satisfied to sit under any other board, not even the Board of Health. He hoped he should receive credit for having given every degree of force in his power to that board, but he would not give up his powers as a commissioner to make a branch of that board, or to pay the expenses of it. He hoped to see this court well carried out for the benefit of the public, but he objected to any proceedings or works that were not known to the public, who might well become suspicious of a small body—and that body, too, appointed by the Crown—with immense powers to rate property to the amount of seven millions. If their deeds were good they ought to carry the full approbation of the public with them. He could not omit to notice that on an hon. commissioner opposite being spoken to on this subject (Mr. Chadwick), that gentleman thought that if he (Mr. Byng) was dissatisfied with the course adopted, the most gentlemanly way would be to retire from the commission, and a threat was implied that if commissioners obstructed—that is to say—if they created discussion, they would be superseded from the commission, and the names of other persons substituted; and the paid assistant secretary to the Board of Health, who was also a sewers' commissioner, was at the same time personally rude to him. During fifteen years he had been a commissioner, and during stormy times, yet he had never received such an affront in that room before. He again denounced these committees as an evasion of the law, and feeling the duty he owed to the public, he would not be implicated in their acts, or attend there to register the proceedings of a committee which he firmly believed to be illegal. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving that all courts and committees should be open.

Mr. Chadwick said there was a very great difference between the new and old commissions, when courts were held at long intervals, and the works were brought forward in a mob, and in a state that rendered it impossible that they could be properly considered; and proofs of it might be found in the works of the old commissioners, which were admitted to be a waste of the public money, even by the gentlemen opposite. He justified the subdivision of labour by committees, and this was proved by the operation of the Ordnance Survey Committee. A member of the House of Commons well acquainted with map-making, had said that the survey could not be executed and carried out in less than six years, and at an expense of 300,000*l.* However, notwithstanding the obstructions unnecessarily thrown in the way by members of the old commission now in the new commission, he believed the work would be got through in one year; and that works that would formerly have cost 10,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* would now be done better and more completely for 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.* There was no doubt that the necessities of the public now required different means of improvement to those carried on by the hon. gentleman and his colleagues in the old commission, and had it not been for the violent obstruction to the subject of house drainage by members of the old commission—

The Earl of Carlisle objected to the use of the word "obstruction;" every commissioner had a right to express his opinion.

Mr. Chadwick resumed, and justified the subdivision of labour, for by it the wants of three districts would be met by the same expense that gentlemen opposite did not, three years ago, think out of the way for one. He was opposed to open committees, as it would be impracticable to carry on the business of experiment if every body was allowed to be present. He then reviewed the works of improvement, and the saving effected in the works performed, and maintained it was in open vestries and open courts that "jobs" were more easily perpetrated.

Mr. Leslie said he knew nothing of old or new commissions. He was there as a commissioner under the Act 11 and 12 Vict., as a trustee for the public, and to do his best for the public interest, and that he would do; and he could not let the present opportunity pass without one or two observations on what had fallen from the commissioner opposite (Mr. Chadwick), which should be of the most friendly character. Mr. Chadwick thought the business of the commission best done by committees, and upon this point he (Mr. Leslie) took issue after thirteen years' experience. When he entered the Westminster commission he found enormous sized sewers, and he took great trouble to get the adoption of the egg-shaped sewers, and